

F. 24(25)-FEA/56

~~SECRET~~

File No. 24(25)FEA/56

1956.

Collection No.

Ministry of External Affairs

F.E.A. Section

Record - Permanent  
'B'

Wait for Note Book.  
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21/5

Pres. Nos. (1)-(3)  
Serial

D.5731-FEA/56.

SUBJECT

Appreciation of the general attitude of Members of the  
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Enquiry Committee  
and of the Japanese Govt's assistance

A2169

Previous References

F. 30(26)-FEA/55

Later References

F. 24(28)-FEA/56.

F. 24(30)-FEA/56.

F. 2(16)-EA/57.

DECLASSIFIED

To be retained  
for 5 years.

140/5/Rm/95

15/11

(गौतम गुप्ता)  
(GAUTAM GUPTA)  
उप सचिव (ए एवं आर.एम.)  
Dy. Secretary (A&RM)  
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi



S. 97 (Unbleached).

MFP-532 General-6862-A-(C-641)-12-10-55-7,000,000.

H. K. K. K.  
29-5-55

Indexed  
17/4/84



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.  
(EA SECTION)

Sl.No.(1) - Issue (Dictated by F.S.)

D.5731-FEA/56 - Sl.No.(2) - Receipt.

Sl.No.(3) - Issue. (Dictated by F.S.)

"At the end of Shri Dwar's note it is mentioned that Shri Bose has kept a personal copy of all the statements and documents. He has asked whether this is permissible. I suggest, we may consider this after the report has been submitted otherwise Shri Bose may feel un-necessarily hurt.

Sd/- T.N.Kaul.  
6.7.56"

"I agree.

Sd/- S.Dutt.  
6.7.56".

(Seen by DS(E) & US(EA)).

Reference above.

Submitted with reference to the note above. The dissentient report by Shri S.C.Bose was submitted to Govt. in October '56 and laid on the table of both the Houses of the Parliament on the 12th December 1956. The Govt. did not print this report. Shri Bose has since published his report himself and made available to public. A copy of this printed report has also come to our hands separately through the Min. of Home Affairs.

In his report Shri Bose has quoted several references from 'Secret/Top Secret' official documents made available to the Inquiry Committee. That is being examined separately in consultation with our NGO Section and the Ministry of Defence who presumably supplied those documents. Meanwhile no action need be taken on this. DS(E)/JS(E) may also kindly see.

VF-24(28)FEA/56

in regard to  
steps to be  
taken

222

19/1/57

US(EA)

Our experience with Shri Suresh Chandra Bose has not been very happy. One of the Defence Ministry's file, which was in his possession when sent back by him had two pages missing. Three letters were written to Shri Bose for return of these two pages, which were photographs, but no reply came and we subsequently closed the matter in consultation



with the Ministry of Defence and returned the file to them.

In this case Mr. Dar, First Secretary, of our Embassy in Japan had stated in his report dated 25.6.1956 that Shri Bose as a member of the Netaji Enquiry Committee had kept a copy of the entire proceedings for his personal record. He had mentioned that Government should consider whether it would be permissible for Shri Bose to publish the material he may have collected as a member of the Committee. At sl. no. 3, JS(E) had suggested that this matter may be considered after the report had been submitted because at one stage, there was a chance of <sup>Shri Bose</sup> ~~his~~ agreeing to a unanimous report. FS agreed to this. Shri Bose has, however, submitted a dissentient report and he has also published this report which has been brought to our notice by the Ministry of <sup>Hence</sup> ~~Defence~~. That case is being examined separately, <sup>✓</sup> ~~in consultation with them~~. In the circumstances, we need not take any further action in this case.

61-7/c  
67/c  
✓ P. 24(28) FEM/sb

*M. R. Thadani*  
(M. R. THADANI)  
22. 1. 1957.

DS(E)

The actual text of the dissentient report is being examined. Meanwhile the copy of the report has been placed on the table of the House. We felt that there might be a great deal of mischievous comment exploiting the dissenting report but these fears have <sup>been</sup> ~~been~~ fortunately belied. My own recommendation is that in this case, we would serve the public interest best, by not giving any provocation to revive the controversy. Obviously it was not desirable for Shri Bose to retain copies of official files which came to him in his official capacity as a member of the Committee but, be that as it may, one should let the matter <sup>rest</sup> ~~at~~ least as far as this case is concerned.



D. 752 - 75

14

( J.S. Mehta )

JS(E)

I agree. But F.S. may kindly see with ref. to his order d. 6.7.56. on p.1. ante.

B.K. Dehanya  
27/1/57

F.S.

I also agree.

S. B. Mehta  
30.1.57

477/JS(E)  
JS(E) 260

J.S(E) But  
31/1

JS(E)  
N.H. Ws/(E)  
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(L)  
Confidential

D.O. No. FS/674

June 19, 1956.

My dear Sen,

Original in  
F. 24 (30) FEA/56

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan had a talk yesterday afternoon with the Prime Minister about the work of his Committee in Japan. Earlier he had a talk also with me on the same subject. He was full of praise for the co-operation which you and the Embassy ~~xx~~ had extended to his Committee in Tokyo. At the same time he complained of the rather extraordinary attitude throughout adopted by Shri Suresh Chandra Bose. Shri Bose, according to Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, was generally non-cooperative and gave the impression that the other two members of the Committee had made up their minds that Netaji was dead and it was his duty to expose them and reveal the truth. On the other hand, the Japanese Government are said to have been most co-operative. They placed all the evidence that was available in Japan at the disposal of the Committee.

2. The Prime Minister would like me to find out from you how the Committee functioned generally in Tokyo and to what extent they received co-operation from the Government and the people of Japan. You might also let us have, for our personal information, your own appreciation of Shri Bose's attitude.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- S. Dutt

Shri B.R. Sen,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo.



Confidential

D.O. No. 12/574

June 19, 1950.

My dear Gen.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan had a talk yesterday afternoon with the Prime Minister about the work of his Committee in Japan. Earlier he had a talk also with me on the same subject. He was full of praise for the co-operation which you and the Embassy in had extended to his Committee in Tokyo. At the same time he complained of the rather extraordinary attitude throughout adopted by Shri Surash Chandra Bose. Shri Bose, according to Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, was generally non-cooperative and gave the impression that the other two members of the Committee had made up their minds that Netaji was dead and it was his duty to expose them and reveal the truth. On the other hand, the Japanese Government are said to have been most co-operative. They placed all the evidence that was available in Japan at the disposal of the Committee. 2. The Prime Minister would like me to find out from you how the Committee functioned generally in Tokyo and to what extent they received co-operation from the Government and the people of Japan. You might also let us have, for our personal information, your own appreciation of Shri Bose's attitude.

Yours sincerely,

24/- 2. Out

Shri B.R. Sen,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo.





सत्यमेव जयते

SECRET

(2) 7.57 31-FEB/56  
No. Amb/PS-II/56  
EMBASSY OF INDIA IN JAPAN  
TOKYO

June 26, 1956

My dear Dutt,

I write in reply to your D.O.No. F.S/674 dated June 19 about the work of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee in Japan.

2. The arrival of the Committee had been eagerly awaited and the Japanese Government had made all necessary preparations. The Committee were therefore, able to start their work immediately on their arrival. I accompanied them when they made their first formal call on Foreign Minister Shigemitsu. When Subhas Bose visited Japan for the first time Shigemitsu was Foreign Minister. In moving terms Shigemitsu spoke of his associations with Subhas Bose. He told me last year that soon after he came out of the Sugamo Prison after serving his term as a War criminal he was asked to lead a Japanese Goodwill Mission to India to hand over Subhas Bose's ashes now preserved in the Renkoji Temple in Tokyo.

3. The Committee worked very hard; the pace was set by Shah Nawaz Khan himself. Shah Nawaz Khan showed himself a fine gentleman, full of courtesy, conscientious and hard-working, honest and straight-forward. In fact, it is his honesty and straight-forwardness which brought him trouble. Though I had cautioned Shah Nawaz against making any loose statements to the Press and had in fact asked him to channel all statements through our Information Officer, unfortunately, one day, at the early stage of the enquiry, a Press reporter walked into Shah Nawaz's room and took him off his guard. At that time Shah Nawaz was alone. Shah Nawaz made a statement which was altogether unfortunate. In explaining why the Committee had come so many years after the event he said that this was because Japan was under occupation by the U.S.A. and there might have been American interference and, besides, the Japanese people might have been embarrassed. On the 'missing treasure' he said that he was definitely of the opinion that there was no such treasure and all that there was is now stored in our National Museum in Delhi. The latter part of this statement roused the ire of those local Indian associates of Subhas Bose who had long made the 'missing treasure' a subject of acrimonious controversy and also a means for self-publicity. Two persons who took the lead in this agitation were A.M.Nair, now owner of a small Indian restaurant, and Miglani, who serves in the editorial board of the Asahi Evening News, an important daily paper in Japan. These two persons obtained the good offices of the local P.T.I. representative, Tandon, who was himself nursing a grievance against the Committee for not giving him any special treatment. Tandon sent a despatch which was widely published in the Indian Press, in which the demand of these two individuals for replacement of Shah Nawaz Khan as Chairman was put forward. Later, this matter was raised in Parliament to which P.M. gave an effective reply.

4. When I saw this statement of Shah Nawaz in the local Press I immediately sent for him and told him that if the Committee's work was to be carried on smoothly



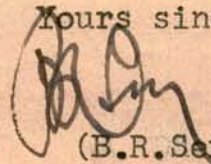
such a mistake should not happen again. I am glad to say that Shah Nawaz Khan did not repeat the mistake during his stay here. I also warned the Indian community, including Nair and Miglani, at the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Association on May 12 that the Committee must have the fullest support and cooperation of all Indian nationals being a Committee appointed by our own Government. These two individuals, however, remained hostile and refused to appear before the Committee though invited to do so.

5. As regards the attitude of Suresh Chandra Bose, about which you wrote to me, I am afraid he was a problem throughout. As Chairman, Shah Nawaz could exercise little control over him. During the examination of witnesses, Bose often showed bad temper, both to Shah Nawaz and to Maitra and, sometimes, even to witnesses. Shah Nawaz spoke to me in high praise of Maitra's patience and self-control in the face of Bose's provocations. Shah Nawaz himself showed no less patience and self-control in dealing with him. Bose appeared to me to be not quite all there. Some of his actions were strange. For instance, without telling Shah Nawaz or Maitra, he arranged to pay a call on the widow of General Tojo who must have been known to him to have taken an active part in the last death anniversary celebration held in Renkoji Temple for Subhas Bose. On another occasion, Bose slipped away to visit the Renkoji Temple and see the ashes for himself. Before he left Tokyo he distributed copies of Subhas Bose's photographs to many Japanese associates of Subhas Bose who had testified before the Committee to his death. These actions seem inconsistent with the belief to which he is reported to have given expression here that Subhas Bose is not dead and will re-appear at the proper time.

6. Once or twice I tried to sound Suresh Chandra Bose about his general trend of thinking but he always avoided a frank discussion with me. Finally I decided to let him alone as I was afraid that any direct approach by me on the subject might give him a handle to use against his colleagues and against Government later on in case he found his recommendations unacceptable to them. It is easy to be wise after the event. But, in retrospect, his selection as a member of the Committee appears to have been a mistake. Whether or not any other member of the Bose family could have stood up to the pressures, both hidden and open, which are being exercised by the other members of the family and also by some of the so-called followers of Subhas Bose in Calcutta, it is however difficult to say.

7. I enclose a note by A.K.Dar, First Secretary, who kept in touch with the Committee throughout their stay in Japan.

Yours sincerely,



(B.R.Sen)

Shri S. Dutt,  
Foreign Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.



EMBASSY OF INDIA, TOKYO

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Commission arrived at Tokyo late at night on May 4th and left Tokyo late at night on June 5th, 1956. Throughout this period of one month the Commission held all its sittings at Tokyo, although it was anticipated in the initial stages that the Commission may have to visit Kyushu as some material witnesses may not be able to leave their work and come to Tokyo. As it turned out, however, these witnesses preferred to come to Tokyo for a change. The procedure for calling witnesses was that all Japanese were to be called by the Embassy through the Gaimusho and all Indians to be called directly by the Embassy. In certain cases the Commission was unable to give the correct names and addresses of the Japanese witnesses but the Gaimusho took the trouble of sending one of their officers all over Japan to trace the whereabouts of persons who might answer to the descriptions given by the Commission. The Japanese Government was also considerate enough to suggest that instead of our paying allowances to Japanese witnesses at uniform rates as for officers we should pay individual Japanese according to their status and at the lower rates of daily allowance for Japanese of that category. Japanese witnesses who would normally have been senior officers' grade did not charge any daily allowance as they are mostly around Tokyo. There was not much occasion to pay any allowance to Indians as there <sup>was</sup> no known material witness outside of Tokyo. The Japanese Government had deputed one officer and one Superintendent to be always available to the Commission for any assistance that may be required. These Japanese officials, however, did not sit in when the witnesses were being examined. The entire interpretation from Japanese to English was done by our own personnel though it was a much slower procedure. Apart from the



Japanese Government officials private Japanese individuals who were in any way remotely connected with the INA were also very cordial to the Commission members. In fact at times Shri Shahnawaz Khan had to decline invitations on the advice of the Embassy as the degree of Japanese hospitality would have become somewhat embarrassing. So far as I am able to make out this hospitality was not extended with any expectation of return or to influence the Commission in any way. At these get togethers conversation was mostly about old times. The only item in which the Japanese Government have not so far been able to help the Commission is in securing copies of the hospital and crematorium registers from Taipeh. According to the latest information given to me by the Gaimusho the Formosan Government is not being particularly cooperative as they have no interest in the matter though the Formosan authorities have said that they would have no objection to making copies of the required records if those records could be traced at this stage. There seems to be no reason to doubt the truthfulness of this Gaimusho statement. The Gaimusho have never concealed the fact that the entries in hospital and crematorium registers at Taipeh were not made in the name of Subhas Chandra Bose. Whether we accept their justification in doing so that during war-time important losses are never revealed is another matter. From the general reports I have received which indicate that the statements of the Japanese witnesses have not always been consistent with each other or even with the report given to us by the Gaimusho there would seem to be no reason to assume that all Japanese witnesses were tutored.

So far as the relations of the Embassy with the Commission were concerned they were very happy so far as I am aware. In fact Shri Shahnawaz Khan and Shri Maitra



were very informal and friendly. Mr. Bose, however, was more reserved but that could be because he was an older gentleman and also wished to spend time to study something of Japanese trade and commerce. There seems to have been some difficulty in the very early stages about the public relations activities of the Commission. The arrangement was that the Commission members would not meet journalists directly or issue any statements except through the Information Officer of the Embassy. This was arranged in order to save the Commission from being plagued by local journalists. For some reasons, however, the Chairman of the Commission gave an interview directly to the representative of the Nippon Times which interview appeared on the 9th May and caused a good deal of confusion. After that incident, however, the Commission members did not receive journalists directly and did not make any statements without consulting the Embassy, specifically the Information Officer. After this incident the attitude of the three or four local Indian residents who claim to have knowledge of certain aspects of the INA movement in its last stages became unnecessarily<sup>-ly</sup> hostile. Among these Indians Mr. Nair and Mr. Miglani after detailed discussions with me agreed verbally to appear before the Commission. Later, however, they changed their mind and gave flimsy excuses for not appearing before the Commission.

It has been reported that these Indian residents had established contacts with Shri Bose and were encouraged in their defiance by his attitude. I am unable to vouch for the authenticity of this report. I have every reason to suspect, however, that these Indian residents have some contacts with persons in India who seem to be interested in keeping alive the mystery of the whereabouts of Subhas Chandra Bose. I have also received reports that Shri Bose made unusual statements<sup>privately</sup> just before his departure to junior



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functionaries of the Gaimusho and of this Embassy to the effect that may be Netaji will appear one day when he considers the time <sup>to</sup> ~~being~~ ripe. I feel that Mr. Bose was needlessly suspicious about the social relations between the Chairman and the ex-Army Japanese officials. I gathered from the Embassy interpreter who had been attached to the Commission that Mr. Bose was inclined to be short-tempered and somewhat rude towards the other two members of the Commission. During the frequent informal discussions I had with the members of the Commission it did appear that Mr. Bose was not getting on well with his colleagues. I understand that Mr. Bose kept a copy of the entire proceedings of the Commission for his personal records. It is for Government to consider whether it would be permissible for Mr. Bose to publish the material that he may have collected as a member of the Commission.

A.K.Dar  
( A.K.Dar )  
25. 6. 56



(3)

SECRET

No.FS/740

3rd July 1956.

My dear Sen,

Thank you for your letter No.Amb/PS-II/56 of June 26.

We are glad to know that the Government of Japan extended every possible assistance to the Enquiry Committee. Shri Suresh Bose has throughout proved difficult to deal with. I was therefore glad to hear from Maitra yesterday that better sense seems to be dawning on him and there is a chance of his agreeing to a unanimous report.

We are very happy to hear many complimentary references by the members of the Committee to the assistance which they received from your Embassy, in particular from Dar and yourself.

Yours sincerely,

(S.Dutt)  
Foreign Secretary.

Shri B.R.Sen,  
Ambassador of India,  
Tokyo.

At the end of Shri Sen's note it is mentioned that Shri Bose has been a personal copy of all the statement & documents. He has asked whether this is permissible. I suggest we may consider this after the report has been submitted otherwise Shri Bose may feel unnecessary hurt.

J.S.

I agree.

S.D. Dutt

6/7/56

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